

THE  
CANADA STAMP & COIN JOURNAL.

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PHILATELY AND NUMISMATICS.

VOL. I.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, OCTOBER, 1888.

NO. 4.

**The Canada Stamp and Coin Journal.**

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

In the Interests of Philately and Numismatics.

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BY EDGAR L. WAKEMAN.

Publication Office:  
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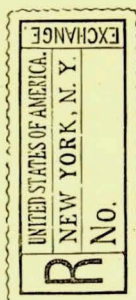
VOL. I.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, OCTOBER, 1888.

NO. 4.

## ODDLY-ADDRESSED LETTERS.

COLLECTED BY THE EDITOR.



MANY oddly-addressed letters daily pass through the post-office. As anything relating to correspondence and the mail is always of interest to the philatelist, I have made a collection of such odd addresses as have come to my knowledge, and shall present a few whenever space will admit.

Several of the rhyming kind are somewhat remarkable for the poetical skill displayed by the writers.

A clever example is given in the following, addressed to Sir Walter Scott during one of his visits to London.

Sir Walter Scott, in London or elsewhere;  
He needs not ask, whose wide-extended fame  
Is spread about our earth, like light and air,  
A local habitation for his name.

Charles Dibden, the naval song-writer sent a letter to Mr. Hay, bearing the following address :

Postman, take this sheet away,  
And carry it to Mr. Hay ;  
And, whether you ride mare or colt on,  
Stop at the Theatre, Bolton.  
In what county, you inquire,  
Merely mention Lancashire.

A letter addressed as follows was mailed in one of the provinces, and was duly delivered in London :

Where London's column pointing to the skies,  
Like a tall bully, lifts its head and lies,  
There dwells a citizen of sober fame—  
A plain, good man—and Ba'aam is his name.

The letter was delivered, without delay, to a Mr. Balaam, a fishmonger, near the monument.

Turning from poetry to prose, we find the following

vague direction :

Mr. —, Travelling Band, one of the Four playing in the street, Persha (Persore), Worcestershire. Please find him, if possible.

Another envelope bore the following :

This is for the young girl that wears spectacles, who minds two babies, 11 Sheriff Street, off Prince Edwin Street, Liverpool.

J. Wilson Hyde, in his book, "The Royal Mail," says that two letters, directed as follows, were duly delivered :

To my sister Jean, Up the Cannongate, down a close, Edinburgh. She has a wooden leg.

The other was addressed :

My dear Aunt Sue as lives in the Cottage by the Wood near the New Forrest.

"In the latter case," says Mr. Hyde, "the letter had to feel its way about for a day or two, but 'Aunt Sue' was found living in a cottage near Lyndhurst."

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—A Russian peasant named Levotchko has just discovered, it is reported, an immense treasure trove in the village of Starogorodki, in the Governership of Tchernigow. The peasant lived upon land forming part of the estate of Prince Ostersky, whose ancestors were plundered and expelled from their possessions by the Tartars, and there is little doubt expressed but that the treasure and other articles found date from this period. The discovery includes, besides many precious articles and manuscripts, several boxes filled with ancient coins of fine gold. The total value of the find is given at \$8,500,000, two-thirds of which go to the State and one-third to Levotchko, whose share will amount to approximately \$3,000,000.

—Mr. Robt. A. Sheldon, Mobile, Alabama, has sent us a circular announcing a new paper, the "Alabama Philatelist." It will be the only stamp paper in the Gulf States, and should prove a success.

—The "Philatelic Herald" has resumed publication. It now hails from Freeport, Maine, with Geo. P. Coffin as chief editor; L. E. Curtis and John Lunt being associates.

THE UNPERFORATED VARIETIES, 1870 ISSUE  
OF UNITED STATES.

BY FIG.

I HAVE seen a number of the 1870 issue of the United States postage in an unperforated condition, as also a few of the later issues, viz.: 2 c. claret and 2 c. green. Now these varieties are simply errors, and were caused by a fault in the perforating machinery. As to being of value to collectors, I think they are, if classed under the head of errors; but they cannot rightfully come under the head of regular issues, as they were never authorized by the Department. I have often met with unperforated specimens of current stamps of other countries, but as very little notice was taken of them, I did not consider them worth collecting. Still, I suppose they are rightfully errors, and should be collected as such, by those who wish to go into all the minute details of philately. Errors are hard specimens to handle, and as a general rule they are left alone, but as some collectors make a specialty of all the varieties which are issued by the United States Government, I think they would do well to insert these 1870 unperforated stamps. Some persons will, no doubt, place them under the head of oddities; but I think "error" the more appropriate name.

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HISTORY OF THE DOLLAR.

(The United States dollar as a basis.)

BY ALBERT WINSLOW PAINE.

THE dollar is our unit of value. When we speak of the value of anything we say it is worth so many dollars, and thus give a definite idea of its value. All nations have a unit of value. The English have the pound sterling; the French, the franc; the Italians, the lira—of about the same value, however, as the franc; the Portuguese, the milreis; the Greeks, the drachme; the Russians, the ruble; the Turks, the piastre; the Germans, the mark at present, formerly the dollar. Other nations have the dollar also, but the value is not always the same as ours. Our dollar,

as a unit of value, is fixed at 25.8 grains of gold, nine-tenths fine. There is also the United States note, the greenback, which is called a dollar bill, and passes for a dollar. This is issued by the government, and entitles the holder to a dollar on presentation. It is, therefore, the representation of a dollar. The government also issues two silver coins called dollars. One is called the standard silver dollar. It contains 412½ grains of silver, nine-tenths fine. It is coined from silver purchased by the government, and is paid out by the government in discharge of government indebtedness, for one dollar. The conditions of its issue are that the government will receive it again for government dues, and that it shall be received as a legal tender for all debts. It passes, therefore, for a dollar, although the quantity of silver it contains is worth only about eighty cents. It is, therefore, a representation or token dollar, and would pass equally as well if made of copper or brass, for it is sustained by the authority of the government. The other silver dollar is called a trade dollar. It contains 420 grains of silver, nine-tenths fine. It is not made receivable for government dues, and is not a legal tender, and therefore it passes only for the value of the silver it contains. None have been issued for several years.

At the time of our revolution the dollar was not legally established as our unit of value. Value was then reckoned in pounds, shillings and pence. Accounts were kept in that currency, the same as in England at the present day. General Washington's account-book, commencing in 1775, when he went to Cambridge to take command of the Army, was kept in pounds, shillings and pence. In 1778 he added another column for "dollars." The reason for this was that the money in circulation was principally Spanish coins, which were called "dollars." McMasters, in his history of the American people, mentions the fact that in 1771 the entire coin of the land, except coppers, was the product of foreign mints. English guineas, crowns, shillings and pence were still paid over the counters of shops and taverns, and with them were mingled many French and Spanish, and some German coins. "Indeed," he says, "the close connection the colonies



had held with the traders of the Spanish Indies, and the nearness of the Spanish possessions at the mouth of the Mississippi and along the Gulf of Mexico, had made America familiar with all denominations of Spanish coins. These coins had long circulated freely among all classes of buyers and sellers. One of them, the Spanish milled dollar, had become as much a unit of value as the pound sterling." The term dollar had become so familiar to the people that the paper money issued by the Continental Congress was expressed in dollars. It was issued in sums of one to twenty dollars, in this form:

Continental Currency.  
No. \_\_\_\_\_ dollar.

This bill entitles the bearer to receive \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish milled dollars, or the value thereof in gold and silver, according to the Resolution of the Congress held at Philadelphia on the 10th day of May, 1775.

At that time there was no law determining the size, weight, and purity of the dollar, and the term was applied indiscriminately to several coins. There were German dollars of different values, Danish dollars of other values, six dollars of Holland, of still another value, besides different Spanish coins which were also called dollars. This variety of coins called dollars made it necessary to specify in contracts the kind of dollars intended. Thus, the Continental Congress specify the kind of dollars as the "Spanish milled dollar." The Spaniards, who governed most of the silver-producing countries at that time, had adopted the system of milling the edges of their coins so that any mutilation could be more easily detected.

In 1782, soon after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, at Yorktown (October 19, 1781), the American Congress directed the Financier of the Confederation, Robert Morris, to lay before them his views on the subject of coins and currency. His report was presented in 1782. As stated by Thomas Jefferson, it was the work of Gouverneur Morris, the Assistant Financier. He attempted to introduce a coinage which would harmonize with the various currencies of the States. It must here be borne in mind that the State currencies were all depreciated from an over-issue of paper money, though not all to the same extent. Six shillings in

New England would exchange for as much coin as seven shillings and six pence in Pennsylvania and eight shillings in New York. Mr. Morris thought it desirable to fix upon some unit that could be easily exchanged for the different values of this depreciated currency. He found that 1/1440 part of the Spanish dollar was a divisor for all the currencies. Starting with this fraction as a unit he proposed the following table for coinage:

10 units	=	1 penny,
10 pence	=	1 bill,
10 bills,	=	1 dollar, (about $\frac{2}{3}$ of Spanish dollar),
10 dollars	=	1 crown.

Here was the suggestion of the decimal system in a crude form. In 1784, Thomas Jefferson made a report, in which he recommended the Spanish milled dollar as a unit of coinage, retaining the decimal system which had been recommended by Mr. Morris. He objected to the unit of Mr. Morris, on account of its diminutive size, and recommended the dollar, because, in the first place, of all coins, it was the most familiar to the people; and, in the second place, it might almost be considered as already adopted for a unit.

[To be continued.]

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—Considerable attention was paid to reprints lately. The A. P. A. Convention not only passed a resolution discouraging their collection, but decided that they shall not be allowed to circulate on the exchange sheets. The New York Society has just established an exchange department, one of the rules of which likewise prohibits their circulation, of course with the exception of those which were issued by Government authority, and good for postage when issued. We consider reprints as little, if any, better than counterfeits, and think it safe to predict that they will not trouble collectors many years longer.—[R. R. Bogert.

—A new departure in collectors papers is the "Philatelic Literature Collector," published by H. C. Beardley, St. Joseph, Missouri. It is published quarterly, 10 cents per year.

—The "Philatelic Gazette" is now issued by the Western Philatelic Publishing Co., Chicago.

## EDITORIAL REMARKS.

AT the Convention of the Canadian Philatelic Association, which was held in Toronto, Sept. 19 and 20, the following Officers were elected for the ensuing year :

President,— Henry Hechler, Halifax ;  
 Vice-Pres., Nova Scotia,— A. J. Craig, Pictou ;  
 " " New Brunswick, H. S. Harte, Salisberry ;  
 " " Ontario,— George Walker, Peterboro ;  
 " " Quebec,— R. A. Baldwin-Hart, Montreal ;  
 " " P. E. Island,— W. Brown, Charlottet'n ;  
 " " B. Columbia,— J. H. Todd, Banf ;  
 " " Manitoba,— J. R. Davidson, Brandon ;  
 Secretary,— T. J. McMinn, Toronto ;  
 Treasurer,— H. L. Hart, Halifax ;  
 Exchange-Supt.,— F. J. Grenny, Brantford ;  
 Librarian,— J. A. Leighton, Orangeville ;  
 Counterfeit-Detector,— H. Morrill, Toronto ;  
 Purchasing-Agent,— H. F. Ketcheson, Belleville ;  
 Official-Editor,— Theo. Larsen, Halifax ;  
 Official-Organ,— Halifax Philatelist ;  
 Executive-Committee,— J. R. Hooper, Ottawa, C.  
 C. Morreny, Quebec, F. C. Kaye, Halifax ;  
 Convention, 1889,— To be held at Halifax.

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—At the Convention : Ninety-eight members were present or represented. It was voted to give the sum of fifty dollars per annum to the paper selected for official organ, the executive committee to have the power to make a change, should the paper selected at the convention prove unsatisfactory. The resignation of J. R. Findlay, as a member of the executive committee, was accepted ; D. A. King was appointed in his place. Mr. Craig, the representative from Nova Scotia, held 39 proxies ; Mr. Emory, the American representative, held 23. A new constitution, very similar to that of the A. P. A., was adopted. The most important variations from the old constitution are : The abolition of the initiation fee ; the raising of the annual dues to two dollars ; the giving a salary of twenty-five dollars to the secretary, and fifty dollars to the official-organ ; the making it necessary that a deposit of one dollar accompany each application for membership ; the making the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer elective, and the others appointive. The date of the next meeting to be decided by the Executive Committee.

—Convention oddities : The oldest collector present was Major Grenny, of Brantford. Prominent and awe-inspiring were Mr. Craig's bald cranium and Mr. Walker's fine black beard. Mr. Ketcheson made a dignified presiding officer. Sickness detained several members, who would otherwise have been present, among them being Messrs. J. R. Hooper, H. S. Harte, and Needham, and the Editor. Mr. Craig ably represented the blue-noses. The exhibition held after the convention, was but a very small show. One of the most important resolutions of the convention, was a vote to discourage the collection of reprints.

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—Quite a large number of new periodicals have appeared during the last few months, and it goes to show what a wide-spread popularity stamp-collecting is attaining. Although the fall season always brings more or less new publications among us, yet the number is, this year, greater than ever before. Among the most promising, judging from the one or two numbers issued, we may mention the "Philatelic Beacon," Newtonville, Mass. ; "Collector & Exchange," Buffalo, N. Y., and "Collector's Exchange," Springfield, Wisconsin. Then we have the "Park City Collector," Bridgeport, Connecticut, and the "Philatelic Press," West Winsted, Connecticut, both rather neat little four-page sheets which may, with proper push, be made a success. Besides those above mentioned, we have heard of about a dozen others that have appeared during the past two months ; while announcements of others to come, are received by us every week. We would like to see you all succeed, brothers, but !—

..... # :: # .....

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STEALINGS.

AT the first blush, the idea appeared excellent ; but unfortunately, the postal Union Convention itself was the first to interpose an insurmountable obstacle. As already stated, one of the vital principals of the original convention is that each country shall retain the postage which it collects. If

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it does duty in Austria-Hungary for 35 centimes in prepaying a letter, is actually 4 centimes less in value. The idea, therefore, of the universal postage stamp, to which the originator clung fondly to the last, had, after all to be abandoned.

At the various postal congresses, which have from time to time been held, it has always been agreed among the several administrations concerned that three special exceptions should be made to the system of accounting for foreign mails at the ordinary fixed rate and by periodical statistics. These exceptions are : for the conveyance of British and other mails across the Isthmus railway between Panama and Colon, for the transmission of foreign mails across the Continent of America by express service from San Francisco to New York, and for the overland Indian mail via Brindisi. All these are paid for by net weight.—[ From the "National Review."

..... || || .....

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PESSIMISTS and opponents of Philately may write and say what they like about stamp collecting being nothing but a craze, a mania. Their opinions are far out-weighted by the prima facie evidence of the universal dissemination of Philatelic principles, and the almost incredible growth of stamp firms, of which a goodly number spring into existence almost every week. There is not the shadow of a doubt that philately is making rapid progress towards the goal of universalization, and its worth as an educational medium is being appreciated and acknowledged by all who have been brought in contact with it.—[ From the "Philatelic Advertiser."

.....

AN entirely new machine has been invented for printing postal cards from the roll, and to turn them out packed in bundles of 25. It prints the cards at the rate of 360 a minute, in the usual way, by means of a rotary press. A set of knives then cut the cards off and drops them, four abreast, into little cells especially prepared for them. When 25 cards have dropped out, a set of steel fingers turn the pack over, twines a paper band about it, and pastes it together. The packagea are caught in an endless belt of buckets, which carry them into an adjoining room, where they are received by girls, who place them in boxes for delivery. One man runs two machines.—[ "Times."

.....

THE word "Post Office" was derived from the latin word "positum" which means placed or fixed. This word originated in the post placed at intervals along the roads of the Roman Empire, where couriers were kept in readiness for the conveyance of dispatches. This was first established by Cyrus 599 B. C.—[ "Collectors' Exchange."

.....

HARD LUCK.—"I'm sorry you spill the ink," said the poet's wife. "Has it gone over your poem ?"

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H. W. KELLER, CARROLL, OHIO, U. S. A.

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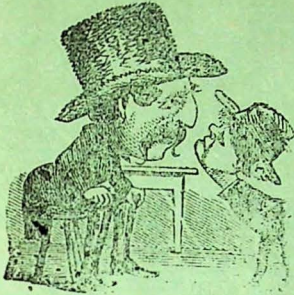
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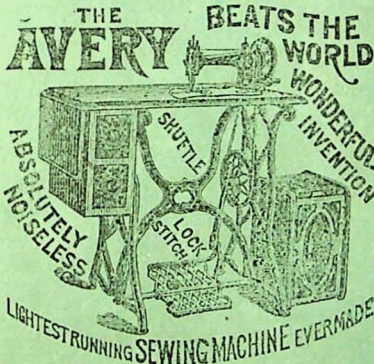
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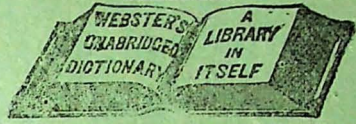
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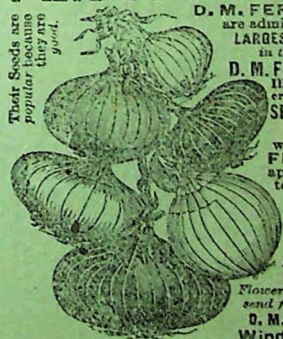
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